(iv) All the Sub-Committees have been constituted and report of the Sub-Committee on 'More Crop and Income Per Drop of Water' has been received recently. First meeting of the other Sub-Committees were held.

(v) The issue has been taken up with other Ministries for linkages with other National Programme *viz.* National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and National Horticultural Mission.

Protection of ancient monuments

*192. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is facing severe financial crunch and the conservation work of monuments across the country is getting badly neglected;

(b) if so, the detailed reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of steps being taken to augment the financial resources of the ASI so that the ancient monuments of national and international importance are properly preserved and protected?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Considering the enormity of the task of conservation and restoration work of the heritage sites and monuments, Archaeological Survey of India requires more funds. However, this has not adversely affected the conservation of the protected monuments and sites.

The funds for conservation are augmented through public-private participation. The Ministry of Culture has also proposed that the Archaeological Survey of India may be allowed to retain their revenues accrued through sale of tickets for meeting the conservation needs.

The Archaeological Survey of India is making a need based assessment of funds which would be projected for consideration while submitting proposals for the eleventh plan.